

In the Claims:

1. (Previously Submitted) A ventilation pipe protector adaptable to a ventilation pipe, comprising:

a tubular sleeve having a sleeve outside diameter smaller than a ventilation pipe inside diameter, said tubular sleeve for receiving a gas from said ventilation pipe;

a hollow head having a head outside diameter larger than said sleeve outside diameter and comprising a plurality of passageways sized to allow egress of the gas from said hollow head and to prevent ingress of animals and debris into said hollow head ; and

a neck portion coupling said hollow head to said tubular sleeve, said neck portion having a transitioning outside diameter from said head outside diameter adjacent said hollow head to said sleeve outside diameter adjacent said tubular sleeve, said neck portion contacting a top opening of said ventilation pipe;

wherein at least a portion of said neck portion extends into said top opening of said ventilation pipe;

and wherein said neck portion contacting said top opening and at least a portion of said neck portion extending into said top opening achieves a low tolerance fit to said ventilation pipe.

2. (Previously submitted) The ventilation-pipe protector adaptable to a ventilation pipe of claim 1, wherein said hollow head comprises a convex shaped end opposite an end of the head attached to the sleeve.

3. (Previously submitted) The ventilation-pipe protector adaptable to a ventilation pipe of claim 1, wherein said hollow head comprises an apex end opposite an end of said hollow head attached to the sleeve.

4. (Previously submitted) The ventilation-pipe protector adaptable to a ventilation pipe of claim 1, wherein said head outside diameter is larger than a ventilation pipe outside diameter.

5. (Previously submitted) The ventilation-pipe protector adaptable to a ventilation pipe of claim 1, wherein said tubular sleeve comprises a plurality of passageways sized to allow the gas to flow from the ventilation pipe into said tubular sleeve.

6. (Previously submitted) The ventilation-pipe protector adaptable to a ventilation pipe of claim 1, further comprising a washer disposed around said tubular sleeve and abutting said hollow head, the washer comprising a washer inside diameter larger than said sleeve outside diameter and smaller than said head outside diameter, and a washer outside diameter larger than a ventilation pipe outside diameter.

7. (CANCELLED)

8. (New) A ventilation pipe plug for insertion into a top opening of a ventilation pipe to prevent entry of debris and other objectionable items into the top opening while still allowing ventilation of gas therefrom, the plug comprising:

a tubular sleeve transitioning in diameter to a larger conical neck transitioning in diameter to a still larger hollow head, wherein said plug comprises a plurality of ventilation orifices sized to prevent entry of debris while still allowing ventilation of gas;

the tubular sleeve having an outside diameter smaller than the inside diameter of the ventilation pipe to allow the sleeve to be easily inserted within the ventilation pipe;

the hollow head having a outside diameter relatively larger than the outside diameter of the ventilation pipe thereby preventing the plug from completely entering the ventilation pipe; and

the conical neck having a transitioning outside diameter from the smaller sleeve diameter to the larger head diameter such that at least a portion of said neck extends into the top opening of the ventilation pipe and allows the neck to rest atop the top opening of the ventilation pipe achieving a gravity operable low tolerance fit.

9. (New) The ventilation-pipe plug of claim 8, wherein the top of the hollow head comprises a convex shape.

10. (New) The ventilation-pipe plug of claim 8, wherein the top of the hollow head comprises an apex shape.

11. (New) The ventilation-pipe plug of claim 8, further comprising a collar disposed around the conical neck of the plug to accommodate ventilation pipes having a larger outside diameter than the outside diameter of the head, the washer having an inside diameter larger than the sleeve outside diameter and smaller than the head outside diameter, and an outside diameter larger than the outside diameter of the ventilation pipe.